1917

WOMEN'S SERVICE

# The Common Cause

## OF HUMANITY.

**The Organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.**

LAW-ABIDING.] ***Societies and Branches in the Union 561.*** [NON-PARTY.

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CONTENTS.

| | PAGE |
|---|---|
| Housing Schemes | 254 |
| Correspondence. Reconstruction for India, Methods of Reformation | 254 |
| Reviews | 255 |
| Women's Service. Some New Openings | 256 |
| News from the Scottish Women's Hospitals | 258 |

*[The National Union does not hold itself responsible for opinions expressed in signed articles.]*

## Notes and News.

### Our Autumn Numbers.

THE COMMON CAUSE is small again this week, but next week it will regain its full size. We hope to publish during the autumn some very interesting articles on different pieces of women's work and on various aspects of reconstruction.

### Local Food Committees.

Lord Rhondda has been asking local authorities for details of the membership of their food control committees: this letter, addressed to one local authority, and published in the daily papers, takes a very common-sense view of the subject. While feeling "sure that the council would not have appointed to this committee any member whose personal disinterestedness was not above question," he feels that "the presence of an undue number of traders on any committee may in itself cause a lack of confidence among the consumers whose interests they are to protect." He therefore asks the council, "if the facts are as represented to him, to consider the desirability of a change in the proposed constitution of the committee, to ensure that it begins its work with the full confidence of the public."

It is not fair to assume that every individual connected with the food trades who offers his services and special knowledge to the local authorities at the present crisis is a wily profiteer, but anyone with the slightest knowledge of human nature must know that the new arrangements are not likely to work so smoothly at the outset as to call forth a quite universal chorus of praise, and that the local committee whose membership plainly shows that it represents the consumers rather than trade interests will have the stronger position in facing its critics.

Details which have been published of the composition of some of the Metropolitan committees show a regrettable tendency to limit the number of women appointed to the one which is obligatory. Out of twelve committees, Poplar is the only one containing as many as three women. The idea that women who have been struggling with the difficulties of war-time housekeeping for three years could give valuable help in dealing with the consumers' side of the food problem is so obvious that it is hard to see how it can be overlooked by anyone genuinely anxious to secure fairness and smooth working for the new scheme of food control.

### Nobody's Children.

A story told in the Old Street Juvenile Court the other day illustrates the folly and cruelty of our laws with regard to the maintenance of illegitimate children, and the slackness with which even such laws as we have are enforced.

According to the report given in *The Times*, three children, aged ten, seven, and three, were charged with wandering.

Mr. Ray, a rescue officer of the Children's Aid Society, stated that they were illegitimate. Their mother had died last September. Since then they had been "driven from pillar to post." The father, who was about seventy years of age, was employed by a firm of solicitors in the West End, and had a country residence, or a small farm, in Surrey. An affiliation order of 5s. a week in respect of each child had been made against him at Lambeth Police Court, but the death of the mother had militated against the enforcement of this.

The children had been handed over by the father to people living at Brixton, Finsbury Park, and Stoke Newington, but he had been irregular in making payments for their support. One woman into whose custody the children were given declared that the father owed her £20. Another woman had said she found the children on her doorstep late at night, and after caring for them out of pity for several days had taken them to the workhouse at Hornsey, but the officials there, knowing something of their history, refused to undertake the responsibility for their care.

The children were remanded for a fortnight with a view to a suitable home being found for them.

The maximum that the father of an illegitimate child can be compelled to contribute towards its support is much too small, and he can escape far too readily from any responsibility whatever. Common sense demands that the father's responsibility should be increased, rather than diminished, by the mother's death. Yet a father is apparently allowed to throw the burden of his three children's support entirely upon the State, while the Poor-Law Guardians, on their side, can deny any responsibility in the matter, and the unfortunate little ones are left to wander.

We do not want to copy German methods and encourage the birth of illegitimate children, but some of the recommendations made by the Population Committee of the Reichstag are extremely sound. They are aimed not at making things easy for the father, but at protecting the child, and seem calculated to lower the illegitimate birth-rate rather than increase it. Among them are:—

To abolish the excuse for the putative father that the mother had intercourse with more than one; to take the father's position into account in fixing the maintenance allowance to be paid; to extend the father's duty to maintain the child to its eighteenth year; to give the illegitimate child's claim to maintenance the same claim on wages as that of others; to introduce a simple and speedy method of collecting maintenance; to punish fathers of illegitimate children who neglect to maintain them; to facilitate the taking of the father's name.

Some of these reforms have already been urged, in vain, by Englishwomen, and are more than ever necessary at the present time.

# The Trade Union Congress.

### Women in Industry.

At the time of going to press, the resolutions dealing specially with women's interests had not been discussed by the Trade Union Congress at Blackpool, and full particulars of the conference of Trade Union Congress delegates representing trades in which women are employed had not yet been received. We hope to give a full account next week of the decisions of Congress especially affecting women.

### Housing Schemes.

In connection with the Trade Union Congress, a Conference on Housing was held on September 1st, on the invitation of the Workmen's National Housing Council. It was attended by representatives of trade unions, municipal bodies, trade councils, and a number of associations. Mr. John Hill, Chairman of the Trade Union Congress, presided, and Mr. Stephen Walsh, Parliamentary Secretary of the Local Government Board, took part in the discussion.

Mr. Walsh said he occupied a minor and subordinate position, but he could say positively that the Government were prepared to give very substantial assistance to local authorities who undertook housing schemes. No question went so deeply to the roots of national well-being. Hitherto the people had been held fast in a labyrinth of vested interests and commercialism, but we could not tolerate any longer the "brick boxes with slate lids," the hovels, which had been provided in the past, even by authorities regarded as progressive. There ought to be no house without a bathroom, or with fewer than three rooms.

The resolutions carried by the Conference did not reveal any striking new view, but the speeches emphasised the acuteness and urgency which war conditions have added to the problem. One new need which may be anticipated as a direct result of the war was pointed out by the delegates of the National Federation of Women Workers. It is sufficiently expressed in the words of an addendum to one of the resolutions which the Federation proposed and the Conference accepted. The original resolution called on the Government to grant loans free of interest to public authorities for the purpose of "erecting sanitary cottage housing to let at rents within the reach of the workers." The accepted amendment was to insert after "cottage housing" the words "and co-operative homes for working women, each home to accommodate a maximum of thirty women."

The Conference also asked for Government control of building materials and the fixing of maximum prices; it urged the Government to make unused building sites available by a policy of rating land and unrating houses, and to give power to local authorities to acquire building land at a price based on the Government's valuation.

---

Dr. Jane Walker has been placed upon the Council of the Royal Society of Medicine. It is the first time that a woman has been placed upon it, and in the opinion of those who have every opportunity of forming a judgment in the matter, anyone who had prophesied a few years ago that such a change would take place in 1917 would have been regarded as a lunatic.

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## A "Common Cause" Hut for Women Workers in France.

Our fund for erecting a Hut for British Women War Workers in France has now reached the sum of nearly £125: £375 is still wanted to provide the Hut, and in addition to this, £200 will be needed for its equipment, and £200 to maintain it for one year. We are anxious to complete the fund as soon as possible, in order that the thousands of girls who are going out with the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, and other bodies, may have a shelter for rest and recreation before the cold weather begins. But it is only growing very slowly at present. Will some of our Societies kindly help us by making a collection locally, as they did for the Hut which is proving such a benefit to women munition workers at Coventry? We gratefully acknowledge the following sums:—

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Already acknowledged ... | 103 | 14 | 0 | Mrs. John D. Hope ... ... | 5 | 0 | |
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| Miss J. G. Goodrich, V.A.D. ... | | 2 | 6 | Mrs. Whitehouse ... ... ... | 10 | 0 | |
| Miss Laura Kayness ... ... | | 5 | 0 | Miss Helen M. England ... ... | 10 | 6 | |
| Mrs. G. C. Thompson ... ... | 10 | 0 | 0 | Dr. and Mrs. Eyres ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
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Further donations should be sent to The Editor, The Common Cause, 14, Great Smith Street, S.W. 1.

# Correspondence.

### RECONSTRUCTION IN INDIA.

Madam,—We hear on all sides of reconstruction schemes for the benefit of our people after the war; and when the day of peace comes, one of the urgent questions will be what is to be done for India?

While bureaucrats consider Anglo-Indian government perfect, we who are moderates do not share this view any more than we do that of extremists.

A great scheme of unification is necessary, and a better understanding with our fellow subjects is demanded. Then there will be peace. Otherwise, a fresh contest is coming which, after the cruel war has ended, after our men have fought side by side in the trenches with our loyal Indian soldiers, is inconceivable.

A scheme is being started to promote this unification, and a committee of well-wishers is being formed to arrange propaganda by means of lectures.

These lectures are to enlighten English people about India, her ideals, her religious outlook and customs, to awaken interest, and also to rouse a keener appreciation of what a disaster it will be for us to lose our hold on India. We need not court this disaster, and the educated Indian feels there is no fear of this taking place; but what we need is more fellowship and a better understanding to bridge over the great difficulties which confront us.

In this scheme women can play a big part. Surely it is by co-operation that we can help to stem the rising tide of discontent in India. After the war there will be a number of women workers, who are good organisers, released, who could take up posts in India to give a push to the higher education for women, which is so much demanded, to found colleges in co-operation with Indian women, and start technical and industrial work.

"Sir Frederick Lely advocated, in the *Asiatic Review*, that big concerns could be planned, inspired, staffed, and organised by English and Indian women working together." Such work would not only be beneficial to India, but would start a current of good feeling because, based on unity of interest, such co-operation makes for goodwill more quickly than political discussions can do. In connection there are many lucrative side branches, such as dairy farming, cultivation of land, bee-keeping, poultry farming, horticulture, jam and fruit preserving, and secretarial work, tabulating how the work progresses in different provinces in India &c., &c.

The lectures, which it is suggested should be given in India as well as England, are to break into the ground. They might cover a vast field, and deal with subjects for promoting the welfare of our fellow subjects, principles of education, hygiene, nursing, midwifery, revival of ancient industries, and the beautiful system of gardening, and a general literary propaganda.

The lectures in India should be given in the vernacular by experienced Indians, to come home to the hearts of the people, and to counterbalance the declamatory efforts of the educated Indian youth. They would deal with questions affecting welfare, economic life, and industries, and show our recognition of India's loyalty, of her rally round our flag in the hour of our need; also our desire to allay India's distrust and the feeling that to serve our ends we would sacrifice her interests.

All this co-operation and work must be with the support of the Government, and public men who have shown a desire to promote beneficent objects and have been good legislators. No work of such a nature is likely to succeed unless it has the support of the Government of India.

Let women arise and show once more their capacity and their willingness to work in an hour of need!

The writer will be glad to supply further details.

A. H. Simpson.

2, Scarsdale Studios, Stratford Road, Kensington, London, W. 8.

### METHODS OF REFORMATION.

Madam,—In your current issue Miss Rosamond Smith states that at the National Council of Women, in October next, organised women will be invited to give an opinion in favour of voluntary rather than compulsory methods of moral reformation. Is the proposed expression of opinion to cover all moral reformation? In cases convicted of living by theft, for example, are we to say compulsion must not be used, but the culprits invited to a voluntary reformatory? What is to be done if they refuse? As the article in question, however, has reference to the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, it is probable that the suggestion is intended to refer only to cases convicted of living by prostitution. If so, on what grounds are we to be asked to differentiate the treatment of these cases from that of other cases convicted of living as parasites on the community?

As Suffragists, we have claimed that women are equally responsible with men for their thoughts, words, and actions; and, that being so, they have an equal right to earn their own living, they are entitled to a fair field and no favour. This has been the spirit of the Suffrage movement hitherto. There seems to be some danger that this spirit will be lost at the moment its symbol is obtained. For now we hear it argued that women must not be held responsible for earning their living by prostitution, so long as men demand a supply, that the responsibility lies with the men; as though it were inevitable that if men demand a supply of hired prostitutes, women must provide it. What is this attempt to evade women's responsibility for their own actions but a restatement of the old Anti-Suffrage argument so clearly stated by Sir Almroth Wright: "There are no good women, but only women who have lived under the influence of good men." Men have tried to rule by denying women's responsibility, but punishing her as responsible; now, are women to affirm their responsibility and deny their consequent liability? If women were right in claiming their right to earn their own living we must accept the duty implied in that right, and not collectively exonerate or excuse those who claim the privileges of freedom without its duties.

It is impossible that the community can safely allow women unmitigated licence to live by prostitution. If we are to prevent the enforced physical examination of prostitutes we shall have to demand that magistrates shall receive evidence of the women's method of earning their living in the case of offenders brought up for solicitation, &c., and

recognise that those who depend on prostitution for their livelihood cannot safely be allowed their freedom. They must be guarded as children and feeble-minded adults until fully developed. It is only when we are prepared to recognise the trade of prostitution as unlawful that we shall be safe from regulation of it. Sooner or later, we must choose one or the other method. Let us beware lest we pave the way for a return to regulation.

ERIE EVANS.

*[Owing to pressure on our space we are obliged to hold over several letters, including a criticism of the views put forward in the review of "The Master Problem," which appeared in last week's issue.]*

## Reviews.

THE ENGLISHWOMAN.—The September number of "The Englishwoman" contains an article on the "Electoral System and its Anomalies before 1837," that is of special interest now that the Representation of the People Bill is about to make such far-reaching changes in our present system and do away with many of its more picturesque accessories.

Miss Lowndes brings forward arguments against the holding of the Stockholm Conference, and urges that men of weight and experience, like Mr. Henderson, should "lend all their influence to securing such a peace as shall lay for many generations to come the armed spectre of military domination in Europe," while the editorial, in discussing Mr. Fisher's Education Bill, puts forward a suggestion for the education of boys in the event of peace not bringing the security we desire, and the regrettable necessity arising for universal military training. The writer holds that if we are reluctantly forced to arrange such training it should be given between the ages of fourteen and fifteen, or fifteen and sixteen, "when a boy is usually keen on such training, and when life under military discipline has the most advantages and the fewest drawbacks." The lad would attend continuation classes, as arranged in Mr. Fisher's Bill, and would also learn a trade which would be a second string to his bow in after life, while he would be given good food and clothing, which his own earnings could not command.

The article makes other suggestions for educational reform, including the establishment of small scholarships, to be granted by a local Education Authority to any child who has been at work during the war, and applied as a maintenance grant to enable a boy or girl to take up a short course of technical or manual instruction.

BOY WELFARE. By Douglas Halliday Macartney. Author of "Naval and Military Cadet Training." (King. 6d. net.)

The desirability of combining ordinary education with cadet training is also put forward by Mr. Halliday, who holds that "if the Cadet Force develops an educational side (as attendance at evening classes) and a social side, without merely confining itself to the military aspect, the country would produce a virile race, better citizens, and better workers." He does not, however, advocate compulsory cadet training, though he holds that movements such as the Boy Scout Organisations, Boys' Naval Brigades, and Territorial Cadet Corps, are of great national importance, and should be encouraged and developed. Mr. Halliday discusses many aspects of boy life, and shows that there is a great need for safeguarding lads in the critical period of adolescence, as well as promoting their weal. He suggests that in every borough and in every city there should be established local Federations of Boy Welfare Associations, operating in a defined area, with the view to co-operation between the various agencies interested in boy life, and the promotion and protection of their interests.

The machinery for looking after girls is, he considers, more complete than that for the welfare of lads. This, however, is extremely doubtful, and if federations, such as Mr. Halliday suggests, are formed it is to be hoped that they will take in associations working for girls as well as for boys. Each is likely to learn by co-operation with the other, and discussion between men and women organisers should be very useful in considering some of the problems of adolescence. Boys and girls influence one another at every age, and it is impossible to deal with either sex entirely without reference to the other.—M.M.

A REPORT UPON THE SELECTION AND TRAINING OF WELFARE SUPERVISORS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS. (King. 3d.)

This report is the work of a committee appointed by the Conference of Representatives of University Departments of training for social work, held in June last. It lays down the lines on which it is considered that the training of welfare supervisors should be carried out, insisting on the necessity of its including a general social study course, such as is already held at certain of the universities, and describing the facilities for obtaining such training which are already in existence.

### A LOSS TO THE WOMAN'S CAUSE IN NEW ZEALAND.

Miss Harriet Newcomb, Hon. Secretary of the British Dominions Woman's Suffrage Union, writes:—

"The woman's cause in New Zealand has lately suffered a severe loss by cessation of publication, through war difficulties, of the big weekly newspaper, *The Canterbury Times*. This paper, which has a noble record of work since 1865, led the way in New Zealand, some thirty years ago, by the introduction of 'Women's Pages,' under a woman editor. What is even more significant is that the woman editor was left free to organise her pages as she would. Of recent years, under Miss Jessie Mackay, the foremost woman of letters of New Zealand, the department has risen to a great height of excellence. Every great topic occupying the public mind was dealt with in the leaderettes, from a woman's point of view. Readers of these pages were kept in touch with the woman's side of every great movement in the Empire and in the world.

"To keep in touch with women's work and thought overseas is the duty of women here," writes Miss Mackay, in her farewell article, "and it can only be achieved by reading the women's papers which have been most often quoted in these columns, such as *Votes for Women*, THE COMMON CAUSE, and *Jus Suffragii*. In that vast reconstruction that must follow the present upheaval, women's journalism will become an increasing and illuminating power."

"Where is the COMMON CAUSE Hut?"

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# A "Common Cause" HUT for FRANCE.

The Young Women's Christian Association have asked the Editor of "THE COMMON CAUSE" to provide one of these huts, to be paid for and supported entirely by readers of this journal, and to be called "THE COMMON CAUSE" Hut. Such a hut is sadly wanted now, but it will become an even more urgent necessity as soon as the winter comes upon us. To be in readiness to shelter the girls from the cold and wet and snow,

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and we earnestly appeal to our readers to send us their Donations without delay.

Y.W.C.A

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To promote the candidature of women for the London County Council, Westminster City Council, Metropolitan Borough Councils, and Boards of Guardians, all Local Governing Bodies in Greater London and elsewhere as occasion arises.

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To secure support for administrative measures in the interests of women and children, and to educate public opinion concerning women's work in Local Government.

To organise Local Advisory Committees and Women's Municipal Party Citizen Associations.

There never has been a time in which the presence of women on Boards of Guardians or Municipal Councils is more needed, and, owing to altered social conditions, will be even more essential after the War.

Maternity and Child Welfare, Housing questions, the adminstration of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Venereal Diseases, are all subjects deeply affecting women, and will have to be dealt with by local administration.

Names of experienced women willing to help the work of the Women's Municipal party in the various London Districts will be welcomed greatly.

New members are most essential to widen the scope of our work, and liberal subscriptions or donations will be necessary to enable the Women's Municipal Party to attain the objects of the Organisation.

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## Women's Service.

Among the transformations that various sets of people have undergone in the last three years, none is more remarkable than that which has befallen a large number of women in England who belong to what used to be called 'the leisured class.'

Of course, it is not only middle-class women who have found that they could do 'men's jobs'; industrial women have made the same discovery. But industrial women knew already that they could earn their own living. The 'living' was too often hardly enough to keep body and soul together; the economic value of their enormous domestic labours was denied; they were imprisoned in their conditions. But this prison was different in kind from that occupied by many of their middle-class sisters, and in their case there has not, alas! been so much breaking of bonds. That, perhaps, is still to come. In the meantime, the change is not so great for the sempstress who has become a munition worker, or for the housemaid who has become a 'bus-conductor, as for the 'lady' who used to spend her days directing servants, entertaining her husband's or her parents' friends, writing notes, arranging flowers, choosing Mudie books, and fulfilling other duties of the 'woman of leisure' at home; and who now finds herself working in the fields, managing an office, learning a skilled profession; or serving, not without danger, in one of the many fields of the war.

It is, of course, not necessary to remind Suffragists that, long before the war began, many 'leisured' women had escaped from the prison of enforced idleness which is so vividly described in Florence Nightingale's early letters. In sixty years of labour and struggle, the pioneer women of the middle-classes had won for themselves, and for those who came after them, education, civic rights, and the entry into certain professions. In 1914 it was already recognised that women could be doctors (though most 'lady doctors' were expected to confine their efforts to women and children), teachers of girls, journalists, secretaries, clerks, accountants, almoners, health visitors and inspectors. A few women had made their way in other professions. A certain number of women had distinguished themselves in literature and art, and there had been a considerable development of artistic craftsmanship among women. The settlements had trained a certain number in social work. The Suffrage Movement had afforded an opening for the organising powers of women and had given them a thousand opportunities they had not had before. A good many girls were receiving a university education, and it was not nearly so unusual for middle-class girls to leave their own homes and set up for themselves as it had been even ten years before. But when all was said and done, the professional women were only a minority; the great mass of middle-class women and girls were still wives and daughters 'at home,' totally untrained in everything except the domestic arts, and with no scientific training even in those.

Thus it came about that when the great call of 1914 roused men and women alike to a passionate desire 'to help,' thousands of women had nothing to help with except their good will and their native common-sense. These were no poor assets, as subsequent events have proved, but they were not assets which specialised organisations struggling with the sudden, unexpected, horrible necessity of putting themselves on to a war basis could utilise at once; and for a time untrained women clamoured in vain on the door-steps of Government departments and of the Red Cross.

The work of organising all this energy (not an ounce of which has been proved superfluous) fell at first to voluntary agencies; and voluntary agencies have continued to bear their share throughout, though at certain points the State has stepped

in and has taken over or developed or supplemented the work that had been begun for it by volunteers.

The organising has been both special and general. We have seen, on the one hand, the tremendous growth of the V.A.D. movement; the wonderful development of the women's war hospitals; and the organisation of women in commissariat work, munitions, and agriculture. On the other hand, a good deal of general work in the way of co-ordinating and spreading information has been necessary all through.

Of all the agencies which were organised at the beginning of the war to carry out this work, none has gone on more steadily than the Women's Service Bureau, started in the first week of August, 1914, by the London Society for Women's Suffrage. The London Society has had two main reasons for beginning and continuing this work. One was the decision arrived at by the N.U.W.S.S. at the beginning of the war, that it would do its utmost to help "to sustain the vital forces of the nation"; the other was that, in the years when war conditions made political propaganda impossible, Suffragists naturally turned to the opening of new fields of work to women: it was, after all, only the other side of their Suffrage task.

As readers of The Common Cause know, the work of the Women's Service Bureau has had many interesting developments since the summer of 1914. And perhaps the most interesting is the growth of the training department. In the winter of 1914-15, the voluntary workers who had gone to the Bureau when it was first opened were followed by wage earners who had been thrown out of work by the dislocation of women's occupations, and with them came many women who had never expected to leave their homes, but who, faced with the general reduction of middle-class incomes and the rise in the cost of living, suddenly found themselves forced to earn. Many of them were middle-aged, or more than middle-aged, and hardly any of them were trained. There were also many young girls who in the natural course of things would have been at school or at college, but who were prematurely forced to support themselves by the circumstances of the time.

Very early in the day Women's Service realised that to find an outlet for the energies of women, or even to find them paid jobs, was not so difficult or so necessary as to find for them opportunities of training which would make them valuable workers, who would be able to make their own conditions, and for whose work there would be something more than an emergency demand. Hence the initiation of the Oxy-Acetylene Welding School and of other experiments in special training. Hence, also, the collection of a great deal of information about different kinds of training, which is now at the disposal of the enquirers in the Women's Service Bureau.

All through the last two years Women's Service has carried an educational propaganda among women as to the need of training. As it was found that the chief hindrance to it was often not lack of will, but lack of means, a fund has been raised, and is administered elastically in grants or loans to suitable applicants for training who cannot pay their own fees or maintain themselves while they are being trained. The needs of the applicants are very various. In one afternoon the Committee that administers the fund is brought into contact with many different phases of women's lives and of the search for the freedom that comes through work. The first person who asks for help may be a young girl with a real vocation for a skilled profession, such as elementary teaching, and need for help in getting the elaborate training. Then, perhaps, comes a woman who has spent all her youth in devoted care of an invalid parent or of younger brothers and sisters, and finds herself free for the first time in middle-age, to do her own work and lead her own life. The next is often a mother, who has to support a family, or who goes back to earning in later life, in order that her children may have a better education and better chances than those she has had herself. She generally wants a short training and quick returns; the thorough training and the skilled careers are for the children for whom she toils. About them also she often asks advice. The Women's Service workers find it necessary to acquire a good deal of information about children, as well as women in the course of their work.

The work is often difficult because of the limitation of opportunity for women that even now pens us in, but it is extraordinarily interesting, and full of a great encouragement. Slowly but steadily the limitations are being removed; and they are being removed by the courage of those who might easily have been stifled by them. It is the character of those it has to help, and that alone, which makes it possible for Women's Service to carry out its task. Young girls, and mothers, and older women alike show a spirit of enterprise and a power of devotion which would astonish one, if anything could astonish one after the events of the last three years.

Many Londoners have lately been deeply moved by *The Three Daughters of Monsieur Dupont*. In that terrible play Monsieur Brieux depicts women enclosed in a horrible triangular prison; each of the three daughters is driven into one of the angles, and there is no escape. In watching it, our Women's Service worker could not help thinking that if *any* of the three had had the courage and determination which is shown by many modern women who come to the Bureau, she would have found a way out for herself and her sisters. At any rate, ways of escape are now being found. It must be the work of this generation to see that there are no such prisons in the future.

I. B. O'M.

*Note.—We hope to publish from week to week articles on new professions for women, or on professions in which there have lately been fresh developments in women's work.*

*At the Women's Service Bureau, London Society for Women's Suffrage, 58, Victoria Street, London, S.W. 1, information can be given as to training for women in agriculture, architecture, clerical work, care of children, cooking, dental mechanics, draughtsmanship, domestic science, engineering, gardening, hygiene, indexing, motor driving, munition making, pharmaceutical work, oxy-acetylene welding, rent collecting, teaching, welfare work, and other skilled occupations. Interviews between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. every week-day*

## WOMEN'S WAR WORK.

The Ministry of Labour have taken over the Professional Women's Register as well as the Women's Employment Exchanges, from the Board of Trade, but the register still remains at Queen Anne's Chambers, and applicants for posts requiring good education and experience are invited to apply there. They should ask specially for the Professional Women's Register, as the other employment bureaux have been removed from the building. "Women's Service" (58, Victoria Street) is co-operating with the bureau, and is in touch with various Government Departments.

On the whole, there is a tendency for better pay to be offered to women required for Government work, the Ministry of Munitions setting the best example, though even here the remuneration is rarely, if ever, equal to that which would be offered to a man for the same work. The best posts are still, for the most part, obtained through private influence, but quite a number of positions are being offered at salaries of from £2 to £3, and the shortage of highly-trained women to fill these may lead in time to the establishment of a satisfactory rate. There is, we understand, considerable demand for women with degrees in economics, mathematics, and science for work in various Government Departments, and also a growing need for really competent accountants, who have had experience in chartered accountants' offices, banks, or in any expert form of statistical work.

The Women's National Land Service Corps, 50, Upper Baker Street, have openings for educated girls for potato harvesting, fruit picking, and other unskilled agricultural work, in Berkshire, Herefordshire, &c. Workers must be strong and active, and will be paid at local piece rates. The accommodation is inspected by the Board of Agriculture.

## ERRATUM.

In the article on "Training for Voluntary Social Science," which we published in our last issue the statement that ten hours a week is the usual minimum of attendance at lectures, should read *two* hours a week. In the first paragraph, N.U.W.W. should be N.U.W.S.S., though members of the former body were also represented on the Commission.

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## N.U.W.S.S. SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS.

### A New Hospital in France.

It is with great satisfaction that we record the honour lately conferred upon Dr. Ivens. She was unexpectedly summoned to the Hotel Astoria in Paris, and there M. Painlevé, Minister for War, decorated her with the Cross of the Legion of Honour. Dr. Ivens has worked indefatigably since the opening of the Hospital at Royaumont, and the distinction is well merited. We congratulate her warmly.

There have been many evidences that our Allies highly appreciate the work that the Scottish Women's Hospitals have done in France, and the request made that Dr. Ivens should open another hospital much nearer the firing line is an added proof. The site chosen is Villers Cotterets, close behind the Soissons line, and Dr. Ivens is promised "heaps of work," as the cases are to be "grands blessés"—chiefly fractures. The railway line runs close to the hospital, and trains of wounded stop there. For some weeks past the work of preparation has been going on vigorously, chiefly under the direction of Dr. Agnes Saville. The matron writes of the hospital :—

"I wish the Committee could see it and hear a little of the praise we have received from several French generals concerning the transformation of these dirty barracks into a most beautiful hospital. The wards really are beautiful with their clean, white-washed walls and red bed-covers. The sanitary arrangements are being well attended to. The roofs have been recovered, and the theatre accommodation exceeds Royaumont by a great deal. The climate is very healthy."

All this is cheering and pleasant, but there is another side to the picture—the absence of electricity and water, which are scarcely less important than the roof. Unskilled workmen and *infirmiers* cannot take the place of the skilled men, who are naturally few and far between. It is expected, however, that all these difficulties will soon be overcome, and the work will be in full swing. Generous American friends of the hospital have already come to our help, and Miss Burke has cabled that £4,000 has been subscribed towards the upkeep of the new hospital. They are starting with over 200 beds, and hope to increase the number. The name of the Hospital is, Hôpital Benevole, 1 bis, 6ieme region, Scottish Women's Hospitals; the postal address is, Villers Cotterets, Aisne.

### Work at Salonika.

Dr. McIlroy writes from Salonika that she has been very busy with urgent sanitary work in the neighbourhood of the hospital :—

"This year there has been very little sickness, but in the heat one never knows when a rush may set in. The majority of the patients are surgical, and one certainly cannot be anything but grateful to the authorities for giving us excellent surgical work since last September."

*[Owing to pressure on our space we are obliged to hold over this week's list of donations to the Hospitals.]*

Subscriptions are still urgently needed, and should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Laurie, Red House, Greenock. Cheques to be crossed "Royal Bank of Scotland." Subscriptions for the London Units to be sent to the Right Hon. Viscountess Cowdray or the Hon. Mrs. B. M. Graves, Hon. Treasurers, 66, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W. 1.

## IN MEMORIAM.

### Dr. Marion Wilson.

We regret to record the death from acute appendicitis of Miss Marion Wilson, M.B., Ch.B. Edinburgh, Surgeon to the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals at Royaumont, while taking a few weeks' rest with her relatives.

Miss Wilson belonged to a Scottish family, and graduated in Edinburgh in 1906, but lived for some years in Lausanne, where she acquired a complete mastery of the French language. She held the post of Medical Officer to York Dispensary, and subsequently spent several years in Palestine as a medical missionary in Jaffa and Hebron. On the outbreak of hostilities Miss Wilson returned to Lausanne, and joined the Staff of Royaumont in November, 1915. Her surgical ability and conscientious work made her a most valuable member of the Staff, and her distinguished services to the French wounded were recognised in February, 1917, when the French Government awarded her the "Medaille des Epidemics en vermeil."

Her personal charm and extreme interest in and solicitude for her patients gained her their affection in an unusual degree, and after their return to the Front, they not infrequently walked many miles and spent many hours of their short leave in paying her a visit. The news of her untimely death caused the deepest sorrow to her friends and comrades, in whose ranks her loss has created an irreparable gap.

The Committee of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals are erecting a simple memorial to Dr. Wilson in the cemetery at Asnières.

### Miss de Selincourt.

We regret to report the death, on August 31st, from a bicycle accident, of Miss Agnes de Selincourt, Principal of Westfield College, University of London.

Miss de Selincourt was a member of our London Society, and will be much regretted by all who know her in connection with Suffrage work, as well as by those associated with her in the cause of the higher education of women.

Born in London on September 4th, 1872, Miss de Selincourt was educated at the Notting Hill High School, and at Girton College, Cambridge, and Somerville College, Oxford. In 1894 she obtained a first-class in the Mediæval and Modern Languages Tripos at Cambridge; in 1895-6 she studied Oriental languages under Professor Macdonell, of Oxford. She was deeply interested in the student volunteer movement, and in the autumn of 1896 went out as a missionary to India, working first at the Bombay Settlement, and afterwards in other parts of India. She was the first Principal of the Lady Muir Memorial College for native women at Allahabad, a post which she held for some ten years. But a tropical climate did not suit her health, and in 1912 she was reluctantly compelled to give up all work in India. In the following year she was appointed Principal of Westfield College, in succession to Miss Maynard. During her short tenure of this office she won the respect and affection alike of the staff and students.

## WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE IN SOUTH AFRICA.

A deputation from the W.E.A.U. attended the South African Party Congress at the Ramblers' Hall, Bloemfontein, for the purpose of presenting to General Botha a resolution passed at the recent Conference of the Women's Enfranchisement League held at Bloemfontein.

Owing to ill-health General Botha was unable to be present, but his place was taken by Mr. Malan, who received the deputation on behalf of the Prime Minister.

Mrs. Buxton, General Secretary of the W.E.A.U., explained the objects of the Society, and read the resolution, which she requested Mr. Malan to present to General Botha.

Mr. Malan expressed his pleasure in receiving the deputation, and promised to forward the resolution to General Botha, together with such remarks and illustrations as he had gathered during that afternoon.


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# Items of Interest.

MUNITION WORKERS' BILLETS.

The Central Billeting Board constituted under the Billeting of Civilians' Act, has now published rules governing the procedure of local billeting committees with regard to the registration of billets, the quality of lodgings, and board to be provided, and scales of payment. Provision is made for appeal to the Central Board from decisions of the local committees.

THE RED CROSS IN FRANCE.

*The Times* of September 3rd gives as the total number of women serving with the French Red Cross 80,000, of whom 70,000 are Frenchwomen, and the remaining 10,000 foreigners of various nationalities. About 6,000 of these nurses are serving in the actual fire zone, where they are exposed to constant risk, so that a number have already been killed or wounded. Mdlle. de Baye, who has received the Legion of Honour, was in charge at a hospital in the Chateau de Duguy, near Verdun, when the Germans dropped incendiary bombs and fired with machine-guns on nurses and patients. She was wounded through giving up her own steel helmet to a nurse who was without one.

Among the foreigners, Miss Ivens, of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, is specially mentioned.

THE RUSSIAN WOMEN'S BATTALIONS.

A Hungarian paper has published a tribute to the great bravery of the Russian women of the "Battalions of Death," displayed most conspicuously at the Battle of Focsani, where they covered the retreat of their countrymen with great loss, fighting stubbornly, though badly supported by the artillery.

WOMEN IN THE RUSSIAN STATE SERVICE.

By an Order of the Provisional Government, women are to be admitted to all forms of State service in Russia on the same conditions as men. Countess Pascine has been appointed a "Secretary of State" at the Ministry of Public Instruction. She is a member of a society for the defence of women's interests, and was the founder of the free dining halls for children in Petrograd.

GERMAN WOMEN IN RAILWAY WORK.

In his description of the social changes in Germany during two years of war, published in the *Daily Telegraph*, Mr. Gerard gives some interesting particulars of the development of women's work in Berlin.

As more and more men were called to the front, women were employed in unusual work. The new underground road in Berlin is being built largely by women's labour. This is not so difficult a matter in Berlin as in New York, because Berlin is built upon a bed of sand, and the difficulties of rock excavation do not exist. Women are employed on the railroads, working with pickaxes on the road bed. Women drive the great yellow post carts of Berlin. There were women guards on the underground road, conductors on the tramways, and women even became motormen on the tramcars. Banks, insurance companies, and other large business institutions were filled with women workers, who invaded the sacred precincts of many military and governmental offices.

ITALIAN WOMEN ON THE LAND.

The Italian Government is so pleased with the work that women have been doing on the land that the Technical Committee of Agriculture has presented its land-workers with large numbers of diplomas, medals, and money awards, in order to encourage a larger number to help in agriculture.

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SOME NEW WAR-TIME ACTIVITIES.

Women are in charge of Messrs. Macnamara's hospital for sick horses, in a London mews. Mrs. Pacey, the superintendent, gained experience in the care of sick animals in South Africa, and she and her staff of girls have charge of about thirty horses at a time. The girls are said to be particularly successful in dealing with nervous and difficult tempered patients, their quiet methods enabling them to gain the confidence of the animals.

The Ministry of Munitions is offering free special training to women, between sixteen and thirty-five years of age, in ship-building and fitting. A number of women are already employed in such skilled work as making parts of engines, pumps, and fittings and mountings for boilers, while some are engaged as oxy-acetyline welders.

A woman has been appointed to supervise the staff of plain-clothes policemen at Bristol, and at Ashton-under-Lyne the first woman branch secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen has just been appointed.

"THE ENGLISHWOMAN" EXHIBITION.

The Seventh Annual Exhibition of Arts and Handicrafts, organised by *The Englishwoman*, will be held at the Central Hall, Westminster, from November 14th to the 24th. These exhibitions are becoming increasingly popular each year amongst art and craft workers, and, since the war, one or two new branches of work have been included in the usual exhibits, amongst which are now to be found the work of War Hospital Supply Depots, and various articles made by wounded or interned soldiers and sailors.

Although it is not so difficult at the present time to dispose of these articles, yet it is also very necessary to find a market for the work produced by our home and village industries. In our enthusiasm for war charities and funds we are apt to overlook these, but it is most essential that they should be supported and not allowed to die out, for when peace returns they will undoubtedly afford suitable openings for some of our wounded soldiers who are unable to take up work of a more strenuous nature.

TRAINING FOR WELFARE SUPERVISORS.

A special course of training for welfare supervisors is being arranged by the Ratan Tata Department of Social Science and Administration, University of London, with the assistance of the Health and Welfare Section of the Ministry of Munitions. It is to be held at the London School of Economics and Political Science, will extend over nine months (October to June), and includes both theoretical instruction and practical work.

GLUCOSE FOR JAM.

In answer to a query which appeared in THE COMMON CAUSE, a member has sent us the following:—Half a pound of glucose to one pound of sugar makes nice jam. I have tasted some of plum and apple. Our chemist's wife, who is a maker of good jams, used the above, and it tasted nicely sweetened.

# What Some of our Societies are Doing.

The ninth annual meeting of the FARNHAM AND DISTRICT Women's Suffrage Society was held in the Bourne Parish Hall. It was proposed, instead of electing fresh officers, to ask them and the members of the Committee to carry on until some decision had been come to about the Representation of the People Bill. This was agreed to. After the report and balance-sheet had been passed, the following resolution was moved, seconded, and unanimously carried:—

"That this Society be prepared to consider in the autumn the question of promoting some form of Citizen Association for men and women in this district, in order to familiarise the new electorate with their responsibilities."

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# Forthcoming Meetings.

*SEPTEMBER 9.*

**Birmingham.**—Great Bridge Adult School—Mrs. Ring—Chair, Mrs. Langley Browne 3 p.m.

*SEPTEMBER 12.*

**Birmingham**—Handsworth Infant Welfare Centre—Mrs. Ring 3 p.m.

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DEVONSHIRE CLOTTED CREAM, 2s. 9d. per lb.; 1s. 6d. per ½ lb., post free.—Miss Hilda Paynter, Hocklake Farm, Berealston, Devon.

FOR SALE.—Plums, 24 lbs., 4s. 6d.; Damsons, 24 lbs., 4s. 6d.; Stewing Pears, 12 lbs.; 3s. 6d.; Cob and Filbert Nuts, 12 lbs., 4s. 6d.; carriage paid within 100 miles.—Mrs. Powell, Harmer Green, Welwyn, Herts.

HUCKABACK TOWELLING, in bundles of Remnants, sufficient to make six full-sized bedroom towels, only 7s. 6d.; postage 6d. Send post-card for this month's Bargain List, free.—Hutton's, 159, Larne, Ireland.

TO LEATHER WORKERS.—For Sale, parcel leather, old handbags, purses, 18s.—Letters only, "G." Fuller, 99, New Bond-street, W. 1.

WAR WORKER'S Tan Hide Despatch Case for sale; 16 in. by 10 in., 10s., good condition. Pigskin folio type-writing case, perfect, 17s. 6d., cost 35s. —Letters only, "G." Fuller, 99, New Bond-st., W. 1.

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### WANTED.

WANTED, 2 or 3 unfurnished rooms, quiet street in Westminster or Victoria; 1st or 2nd floor; gentlewoman's house preferred; kitchen not essential, bath absolutely so.—Murray, 18, Gloucester-st., S.W. 1.

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